

00554

1970/05/26



Department of State

WH
TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

5778Q

1970 MAY 26 AM 8:13

O 261125Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1256
RUMJNO/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 424
BT
T O P S E C R E T SAIGON 8144

NODIS/KHMER

FANK REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SET FORTH IN PHNOM PENH 1017
HAS BEEN STUDIED. GENERAL ABRAMS' CONCLUSIONS, WITH WHICH
I CONCUR, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO WITHDRAW THE FANK UNITS
FROM THE BUNG LUNG-BAKEV-LOMPHAT AREA TO SOUTH VIET-NAM
FOR FURTHER EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE IN CAMBODIA.
2. IN MY JUDGMENT A SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF SUPPORT IN TERMS OF
TROOPS, AIR AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED OVER A
PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THIS AREA.
THIS EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE MADE FOR THESE REASONS:
 - A. US OVERT SUPPORT TO CAMBODIA IS TO END ON 30 JUNE 70.
 - B. RVNAF WOULD BE OVER-EXTENDED TO ATTEMPT THIS TASK
AND SHOULD DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURITY OF SVN.
 - C. THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON WILL SEVERELY HAMPER GROUND
MOVEMENT AND AIR ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA FROM JUNE THROUGH
OCTOBER. HOWEVER, I HAVE AUTHORIZED THE PROVISION OF AIR
SUPPORT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
 - D. THE ENEMY IS CAPABLE OF SEIZING THE AREA AT A TIME
OF HIS CHOOSING.
3. IT IS CONSIDERED RVNAF AND FANK SHOULD COORDINATE ON
BASIC PLAN TO REDEPLOY THE FANK UNITS FROM THE AREA OF CONCERN
TO SVN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR FURTHER EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE
IN CAMBODIA. JGS IS BEING URGED TO PURSUE THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
BUNKER

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

ED 17958

By CM

NARA Date 11/10/20